

ISLAND COUNTY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

August 26, 2015

The Island County Council of Governments on August 26, 2015 in the Commissioners' Hearing Room 102B, located at 1 NE 6th St., Coupeville.

The Council of Governments Minutes and recordings of meetings may be located at
<http://www.islandcounty.net/commissioners/cog/2015/>

Members Present: Nancy Conard, Mayor, Town of Coupeville
Helen Price Johnson, Island County Commissioner
Jill Johnson, Island County Commissioner
Rick Hannold, Island County Commissioner
Fred McCarthy, Mayor of Langley
Curt Gordon, Commissioner, South Whidbey Port District
Marshall Bronson, Port of Coupeville

Also Present: Ken Graska, Island Transit Acting Executive Director
Doug Cox, Island County Transportation Planner

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Nancy Conard called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Commissioner Price Johnson and seconded by Commissioner Jill Johnson to approve the minutes of the July 22, 2015 regular meeting.

SUSTAINABLE WHIDBEY COALITION

It was moved by Commissioner Gordon and seconded by Mayor McCarthy to approve the Sustainable Whidbey Coalition vouchers as presented.

PRESENTATION: ISLAND TRANSIT UPDATE

Ken Graska, Island Transit Acting Executive Director
Island Transit Today: The Road to Recovery
Overview of progress made by Island Transit, 2015 highlights, and future activities were presented.

PRESENTATION: FERRY UPDATE

Commissioner Helen Price Johnson
Improvements at Ferry Dock Road were discussed.

PRESENTATION: ALTERNATE RTPD STRUCTURE

Doug Cox, Island County Transportation Planner and Bill Oakes, Public Works Director

Mr. Cox shared an updated version of the draft Articles of Association and Bylaws for the new Island Transportation Planning Organization (ITPO) and explained that the County's Prosecuting Attorney recently reviewed the documents, which resulted in one overarching change since the group last discussed them.

The key message from the attorney is that the ITPO can make recommendations on decisions, but ultimately decisions need to be approved by each individual agency instead of the ITPO. The reason is because the RCW under which the organization will be formed allows agencies to exercise their authorities jointly with other agencies having the same authorities, but does not allow these authorities to be expanded.

In this case the County, cities, town, ports and Public Transportation Benefit Area (PBTA) can enter into an agreement to work collaboratively, but because the area encompassing Island County does not meet the 100,000 population requirement to be an RTPD, the new organization cannot officially take on the RTPD duties as spelled out in RCW 47.80.

Mr. Cox explained that while this may be the legal interpretation, functionally the ITPO could still work very similarly to the former Island sub-RTPO. The group also discussed efforts to lobby state lawmakers to amend RCW 47.80 to allow Island County to become an official RTPO. Mr. Cox will provide clean versions of the articles and bylaws to the group so that the cities, town, ports and PBTA can also conduct their official reviews, with the hope that members will be authorized to sign the articles of association at the next COG meeting.

OTHER ITEMS OF MUTUAL INTEREST

The meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

Next meeting: September 23, 2015

Approved this 23th day of September, 2015.

Approved